

IC 25-23.6-8.5

Chapter 8.5. Mental Health Counselors

IC 25-23.6-8.5-1

Application; requirements

Sec. 1. An individual who applies for a license as a mental health counselor must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that the individual has:
 - (A) received a master's or doctor's degree in an area related to mental health counseling from:
 - (i) an institution of higher education that meets the requirements under section 2 of this chapter; or
 - (ii) a foreign school that has a program of study that meets the requirements under section 2 of this chapter;
 - (B) completed the educational requirements under section 3 of this chapter; and
 - (C) completed the experience requirements under section 4 of this chapter.
- (2) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that the individual does not have a conviction for a crime that has a direct bearing on the individual's ability to practice competently.
- (3) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that the individual has not been the subject of a disciplinary action by a licensing or certification agency of another state or jurisdiction on the grounds that the individual was not able to practice as a mental health counselor without endangering the public.
- (4) Pass an examination provided by the board.
- (5) Pay the fee established by the board.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-2

Requirements for institution attended by applicant

Sec. 2. An applicant under section 1 of this chapter must have received a master's or doctor's degree in an area related to mental health counseling from an institution of higher education that meets the following requirements:

- (1) If the institution was located in the United States or a territory of the United States, at the time of the applicant's graduation the institution was accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation.
- (2) If the institution was located in Canada, at the time of the applicant's graduation the institution was a member in good standing with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.
- (3) If the institution was located in a foreign country other than Canada, at the time of the applicant's graduation the institution:
 - (A) was recognized by the government of the country where the school was located as a program to train in the practice

of mental health counseling or psychotherapy counseling;
and

(B) maintained a standard of training substantially equivalent to the standards of institutions accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-3

Educational requirements

Sec. 3. An applicant under section 1 of this chapter must complete the following educational requirements:

(1) Complete sixty (60) semester hours of graduate coursework in counseling that must include either a master's degree that required not less than forty-eight (48) semester hours or a doctor's degree in counseling. The graduate coursework must include the following content areas:

- (A) Human growth and development.
- (B) Social and cultural foundations of counseling.
- (C) Helping relationship, including counseling theory and practice.
- (D) Group dynamics, processes, counseling, and consultation.
- (E) Lifestyle and career development.
- (F) Assessment and appraisal of individuals.
- (G) Research and program evaluation.
- (H) Professional orientation and ethics.
- (I) Foundations of mental health counseling.
- (J) Contextual dimensions of mental health counseling.
- (K) Knowledge and skills for the practice of mental health counseling and psychotherapy.
- (L) Clinical instruction.

(2) Not less than one (1) supervised clinical practicum, internship, or field experience in a counseling setting, which must include a minimum of one thousand (1,000) clock hours consisting of one (1) practicum of one hundred (100) hours, one (1) internship of six hundred (600) hours, and one (1) advanced internship of three hundred (300) hours with at least one hundred (100) hours of face to face supervision. This requirement may be met by a supervised practice experience that took place away from an institution of higher education but that is certified by an official of the institution of higher education as being equivalent to a clinical mental health graduate level practicum or internship program at an institution accredited by an accrediting agency approved by the United States Department of Education or the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-4

Clinical experience requirements

Sec. 4. (a) The applicant must have at least three thousand (3,000) hours of post-graduate clinical experience over a two (2) year period. The clinical experience must consist of one hundred (100) hours of face to face supervision under the supervision of a licensed mental health counselor or an equivalent supervisor, as determined by the board.

(b) A doctoral internship may be applied toward the supervised work experience requirement.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (d), the clinical experience requirement may be met by work performed at or away from the premises of the supervising mental health counselor.

(d) The clinical work requirement may not be performed away from the supervising mental health counselor's premises if:

(1) the work is the independent private practice of mental health counseling; and

(2) the work is not performed at a place that has the supervision of a licensed mental health counselor or an equivalent supervisor, as determined by the board.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-5**Eligibility for examination**

Sec. 5. An individual who satisfies the requirements of sections 1 and 2 of this chapter may take the examination provided by the board.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-6**Examination; times and places**

Sec. 6. The board shall provide for examinations to be given at least once each year at times and places established by the board.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-7**Issuance of license**

Sec. 7. The board shall issue a license to an individual who:

(1) achieves a passing score, as determined by the board, on the examination provided under this chapter; and

(2) is otherwise qualified under this article.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-8**Duration of license; renewal**

Sec. 8. (a) A license issued by the board is valid for the remainder of the renewal period in effect on the date the certificate was issued.

(b) An individual may renew a license by:

(1) paying a renewal fee on or before the expiration date of the license; and

(2) completing at least twenty (20) hours of continuing

education per licensure year.

(c) If an individual fails to pay a renewal on or before the expiration date of a license, the license becomes invalid.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-9

Reinstatement of invalid license

Sec. 9. (a) The board may reinstate an invalid license up to three (3) years after the expiration date of the license if the individual holding the invalid license meets the requirements under IC 25-1-8-6.

(b) If more than three (3) years have elapsed since the date a license expired, the individual holding the license may reinstate the invalid license by satisfying the requirements for reinstatement established by the board and meeting the requirements under IC 25-1-8-6.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71. Amended by P.L.269-2001, SEC.23.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-10

Temporary permit

Sec. 10. (a) The board may issue a temporary permit to an individual to profess to be a mental health counselor if the individual pays a fee and the individual:

- (1) has a valid license or certificate to practice from another state and the individual has applied for a license from the board;
- (2) is practicing in a state that does not license or certify mental health counselors, but is certified by a national association approved by the board and the individual has applied for a license from the board; or

(3) has been approved by the board to take the examination and has graduated from a school or program approved by the board and the individual has completed any experience requirement.

(b) A temporary permit expires the earlier of:

- (1) the date the individual holding the permit is issued a license under this article; or
- (2) the date the board disapproves the individual's license application.

(c) The board may renew a temporary permit if the individual holding the permit was scheduled to take the next examination and the individual:

- (1) did not take the examination; and
- (2) shows good cause for not taking the examination.

(d) A permit renewed under subsection (c) expires on the date the individual holding the permit receives the results from the next examination given after the permit was issued.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-11

Notification of retirement from practice

Sec. 11. (a) An individual who is licensed under this article shall

notify the board in writing when the individual retires from practice.

(b) Upon receipt of the notice, the board shall:

- (1) record the fact the individual is retired; and
- (2) release the individual from further payment of renewal fees and continuing education requirements.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-12

Exemption from examination requirement

Sec. 12. An individual who applies for a license under this article may be exempted by the board from the examination requirement under this chapter if the individual:

- (1) is licensed or certified to practice as a mental health counselor in another state; or
- (2) has engaged in the practice of mental health counseling for not less than three (3) of the previous five (5) years;
- (3) has passed a licensing examination substantially equivalent to the licensing examination required under this article;
- (4) has passed an examination pertaining to the mental health counseling laws and rules of this state; and
- (5) has not committed any act or is not under investigation for any act that constitutes a violation of this article;

and is otherwise qualified under sections 1 and 2 of this chapter and pays an additional fee.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71.